

GOOD CONSERVATION AND RESTAURATION PRACTICE

FICHE

Composed by working party of: The Czech Republic

0. School of architecture AVU (Academy of Fine Arts in Prague)



Depicted item: School of architecture AVU, before and after the restauration

Sources: before Wikipedia / after Tomáš Souček, Pavel Nasadil, Skupina

Dates: before 2011 / after 2019

- **Other images or documents**

- **Data for identification**

current name: School of architecture AVU

former/original/variant name: School of architecture

address/ number(s) and name(s) of street(s): U Akademie 2

town: Prague

province/ state: Prague

post code: 170 00

country: The Czech Republic

geographic GPS coordinates: 50°06'10.0"N 14°25'32.7"E

current typology: education/ateliers/school

former/original/variant typology: education/ateliers/school

comments on typology:

- **Status of protection**

protected by: state (Ministry of Culture Czech Republic)

grade: cultural monument (one stage under a National Cultural Monument)

date: 26. 9. 1991

valid for: whole area/building

remarks: stands also in the urban monument zone listed in 1993

- **Accesibility**

- opened on a daily basis as the university

- **History of the building(s)**

- **Chronology**

Commission/competition date: none

design period (s): 1919-1920

start of site work: 1923

completion/inauguration: 1924

persons/organizations involved: Jan Kotěra (architect, the founder of School of architecture), Josef Gočár (Kotěra´s student, changed and finished the project after the teacher´s death)

- **Summary of important changes after the completion**

type of change: renovation

date(s): 1950-1960; 1968-1975; 1991-2011

circumstances/reasons for change:

effect of changes: very subtle changes of partitions, utility elements; refurbish of original elements

persons/organizations involved: Jaroslav Frágnér (architect); František Cubr (architect) and Jaroslav Fišer (designer of lights), Emil Příklad (architect)

- **2. Summary of the restoration**

- **Summary of important changes after restoration**

type of change: restoration

date(s): 2019

circumstances/reasons for change: maintenance work; unsatisfactory condition

effect of changes: new usage of underground level, return of former functions and addition of new user's possibilities

people/organisations involved:

Investor: Akademie výtvarných umění v Praze

Author: architect Marcela Steinbachová / Skupina

Co-operation: architect Vít Holý

Study on the investment plan: professor Emil Příklad with students and assistants

Architectural and construction part of the following phases: architect Marcela Steinbachová

Co-operation: architect Vít Holý

Consultations and co-operation: architect Emil Příklad

- **Current use**

of whole building/site: university/education

of principal components (if applicable):

comments: same usage for 100 years

- **Evaluation of the restoration/conservation**

Give the scientific reasons for selection for Docomomo documentation.

Intrinsic value

- **Technical evaluation:**

The very first project from 1919 by architect Jan Kotěra expected to build two identical low rise buildings next to the main historical building of the Academy of Fine Arts. After Kotěra's death in 1923 the project was revised by his student Josef Gočár. His contribution was the elevation one level higher. As a result of the change a fully floodlit atelier on the top floor could be realized. The construction itself is a mix of brick walls and reinforced concrete beams in roof/atelier space. Despite the fact that the building should have been only a temporary solution, it became a permanent residence. One of the main aims of the restoration was the installation of the draining system around/in underground floor. Next to a new double ventilated concrete floor, the original draining system was uncovered, cleaned and preserved. The never regularly used underground floor was changed to workshops. Original openings were uncovered. Every new element is visually detached from the original construction. There is a clear board between added functional and technical pieces such as inter-windows, doors, switches, ventilation, lights etc., and empty white original space. A totally different story is set in the rest of the building. Above-ground floors were over the years almost untouched and used in the original form from 1924. There were only minor changes in the disposition and utility features. The restoration approach respected not only the oldest matter but also later added layers as a natural part of the structure and evolution evidence. Rehabilitation consisted of reversion to original ground plan enriched with new functions. These are invisible and all hidden. Only the number of wall sockets, a few reflectors and data cables reveal new usage (in terms of a study program). The facade gained original colour and tectonic schemes from 1924.

- **Social evaluation:**

The Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, founded in 1799, it is the oldest art college in the Czech Republic. The department of architecture was founded in 1910 by the founder of Czechoslovak modern architecture Jan Kotěra. It was a significant gesture showing that the architecture is not only a technical but also artistic discipline (until 1910 there existed only technical schools where one could study architecture)

- **Cultural and aesthetic evaluation:**

The School of architecture AVU represents unique lifetime stories and art coincidences of its time. In the beginning there was no architectural completion for the new building. The

founder of modern Czechoslovak architecture Jan Kotěra became in 1910 the first professor of architecture at the AVU. He established the School of architecture to stress its importance in the art field. A need for a separate space and atelier was natural after several years. As a staff/academic member he designed the first project in 1920, which was never realized due to his sudden passing in 1923. However the project was assumed by architect Josef Gočár, who was not only a new head of the School of Architecture but also a former Kotěra's student at the School of Applied Arts in Prague. Gočár remade the project sensitively. A single-storey building in modernistic style with Art Nouveau elements was elevated and supplemented with cubist morphology. The result represented a true answer to the question of that time - what modern and national style is. After the Second World War it was not reckoned to keep this still a temporary building, however they kept it. Architect Jaroslav Frágner was nominated for a professor of architecture. No surprise that he was Gočár's student. Frágner's interventions as well as Cubr's, who succeeded him in the sixties, were hardly distinguishable. After the Velvet Revolution, architects and the head of the School of architecture Emil Příklad with his students drew a Study on the investment plan. Unfortunately he was not able to finish it. In 2019 architect Marcela Steinbachová won an architectural competition for the restoration of the building. As well as her forerunners she took a sophisticated and respectful approach to the whole action. She used as the base of Příklad's Study, who was, unsurprisingly, also her teacher. The School of architecture AVU documents Czech architectural development in the 20th and 21st century. All architects involved are the prominent figures in the field of Czechoslovak architecture and represent higher or even the highest level of intellectual, art and craftsmanship skills.

• Documentation

• Archives/written records/correspondence etc: (state location/ address)

Archive of The Academy of Fine Arts in Prague, the Czech Republic / U Akademie 4

Prague 7

Archive of the Building Authority of the Prague 7 district, the Czech Republic / U Průhonu 1338/38, Prague 7

• Principal publications (in chronological order):

Jiří Kotalík (ed), *Almanach Akademie výtvarných umění v Praze. K 180. výročí založení (1799-1979)*, Praha, 1979

Rostislav Švácha, *Česká kubistická architektura 1911-1923*, Praha, 2000, s. 164

Daniela Karasová– Vladimír Šlapeta, *Jan Kotěra 1871-1923: zakladatel moderní české architektury*, Praha, 2001, s. 210-211

Michal Tryml (ed), *Kniha o Bubenči*, Praha, 2004, s. 147-150

Ester Havlová, Zdeněk Lukeš, *Český architektonický kubismus / Czech Architectural Cubism: Podivuhodný směr, který se zrodil v Praze / A Remarkable Trend that Was Born in Prague*, Prague, 2006, s. 40-41

Petr Krajčí (ed), *Slavné stavby Prahy 7*, Praha, 2011, s. 81-84

Pavel Vlček (ed), *Umělecké památky Prahy*, Praha, 2012, s. 156

Zdeněk Lukeš, *Praha moderní velký průvodce po architektuře 1900-1950, II. Levý břeh Vltavy*, V Praze a Litomyšli: Paseka, 2013, s. 217

Marcela Steinbachová, *Obnova Školy architektury*, *Stavba* 2020, č. 2, s. 58-61.

Rostislav Švácha, *Autentické! K obnově Školy architektury AVU*, *Stavba* 2020, č. 2, s. 62-63.

- **Visual material (state location/ address)**

original visual records/drawings/photographs/others:

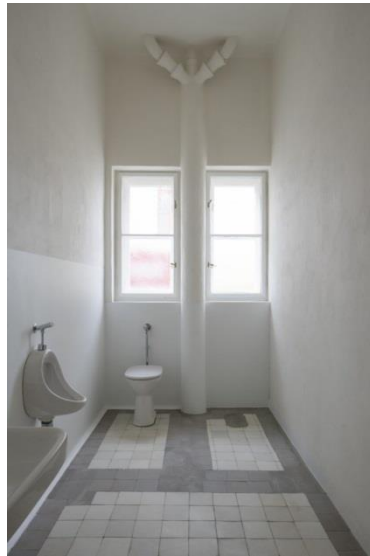
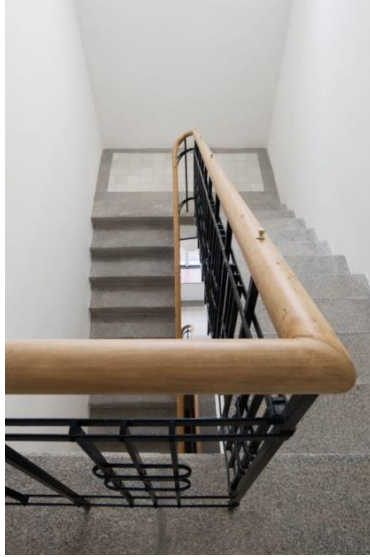
Source: Jiří Kotalík (ed), *Almanach Akademie výtvarných umění v Praze. K 180. výročí založení (1799-1979)*, Praha, 1979

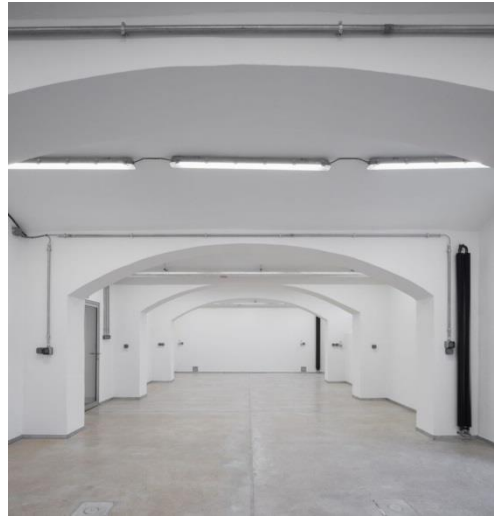
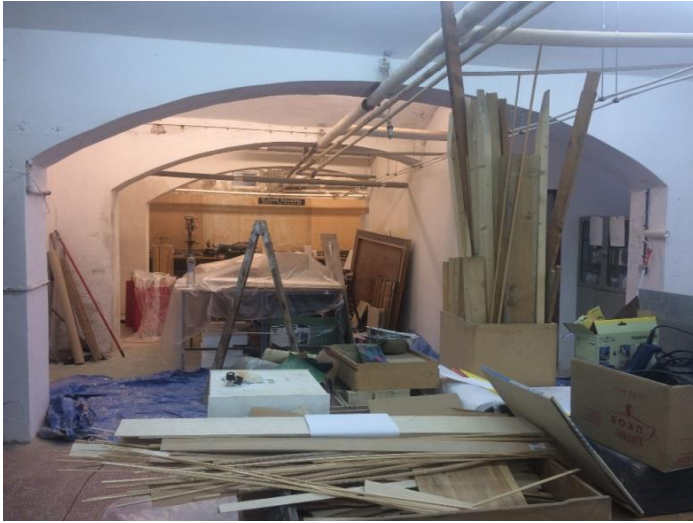


Post restoration photographs and survey drawings:

Source: private archive of architect Marcela Steinbachová:







Josef Gočár



Skupina



Josef Gočár



Skupina



Josef Gočár



Skupina



Josef Gočár



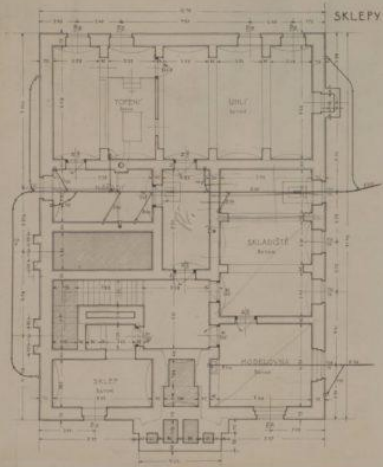
Emil Příklad + studenti AVU



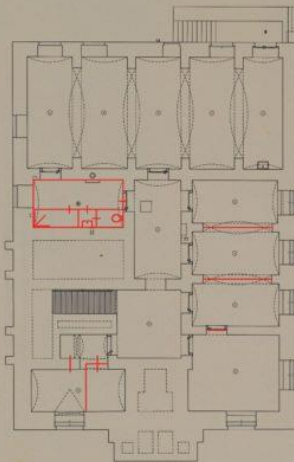
Skupina



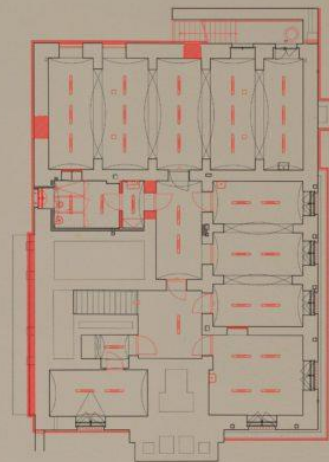
Jan Kotěra



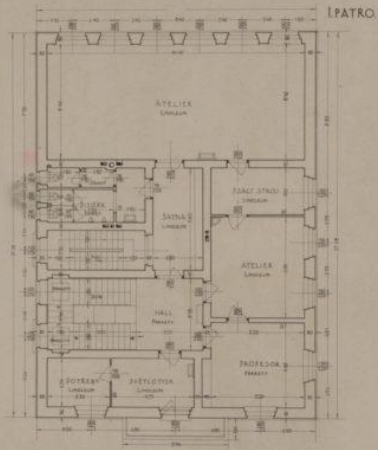
Emil Příklad + studenti AVU



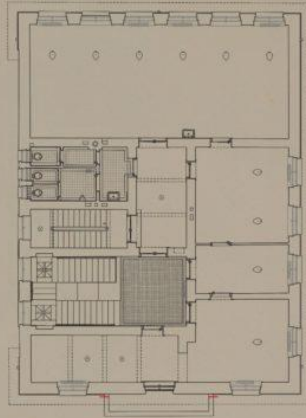
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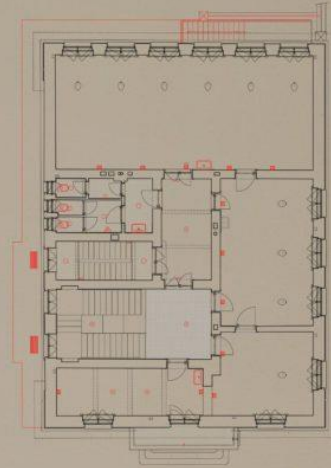
Jan Kotěra



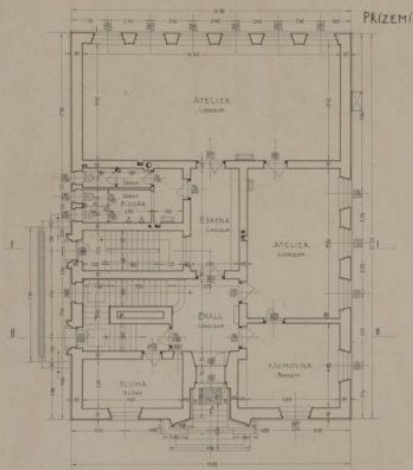
Emil Příklad + studenti AVU



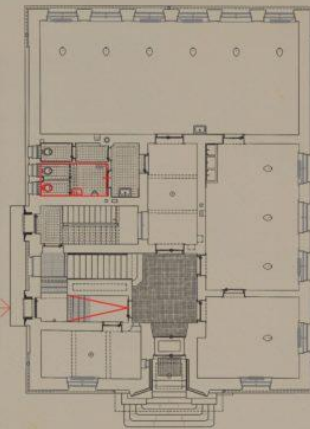
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Jan Kotěra



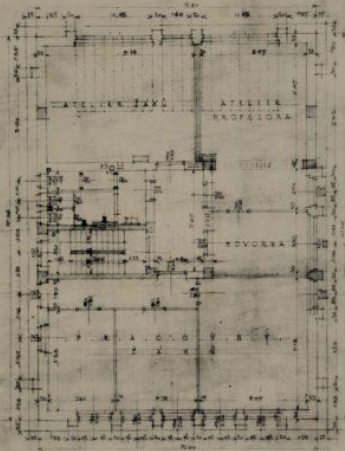
Emil Příklad + studenti AVU



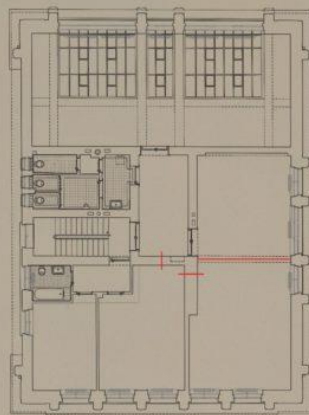
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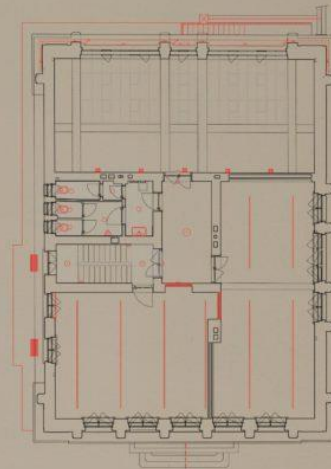
Josef Gočár



Emil Příklad + studenti AVU



Skupina



film/video/other sources:

Škola architektury AVU, reportáž ČRO <https://vltava.rozhlas.cz/vypada-jako-nebyla-vubec-opravena-architekti-obnovili-skolu-architektury-jana-8148860>

- **List documents included in supplementary dossier**

- **Fiche report**

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date of report: 17. 9. 2020

Examination by DOCOMOMO national/regional section

approval by working party co-ordinator/registers correspondent (name): Petr Vorlík
sign and date:

examination by DOCOMOMO ISC/R

type of ISC Registers/Urbanism/Landscape/Gardens:

name of ISC member in charge of the evaluation:

comment(s):

ISC approval:

Sign and date:

Working party/ID n°:

date:

NAi ref n°: